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Anti-Semitism in the USA

CPYRGHT

There is much talk in the Jewish community about the growing danger of anti-Semitism in the United States. Studies are being made, books are being published, statements are being issued. We do not wish to underestimate the importance of studying this question and publishing material about it. This is, in itself, very important. However, at times one gets the impression that the researchers are trying to minimize the danger. Recently, two separate studies have appeared. Both of them point to the same tendency.

The Two Investigations

In December 1964 the American Jewish Committee published the results of an investigation into anti-Semitism in the U.S., conducted during the years 1937-1962. The results showed:

- that attitudes to Jews and Judaism have changed drastically during the last quarter century;
- that the majority of Americans look upon Jews as individuals rather than as members of a racial group;
- that Judaism is widely regarded as one of the principal religions in the country;
- that many hostile stereotypes "have almost completely disappeared";
- that open anti-Semitism has experienced a "massive decline";
- that most Americans are against a quota system for Jews in the colleges (25 years ago a majority were for it);
- that most non-Jews displayed a willingness that their children have Jewish friends;
- that a majority of Americans in business and industry are ready to work and deal with Jews.

The percentage of those ready to accept "Jews as marriage partners increased to the same degree as those ready to hire Jews as employees, admit them to colleges and be their neighbors." At the same time, however, the investigation warned that there is a hidden prejudice which can be aroused in times of upheaval and crisis in American society.

The University of California's Research Center also conducted a broad survey for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith on anti-Semitism in the U.S. It is due to be completed this year. The

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national chairman of ADL, Dore Schary, last year released some results of the study:

- 64 per cent of those interviewed stated that they like Jews better after they get to know them more intimately;
- 76 per cent said that Jews are warm and friendly people;
- 74 per cent said that Jews are becoming more and more like other Americans;
- 83 per cent said they did not mind Jews as neighbors;
- 87 per cent said that business firms should hire the best qualified people whether they are Jews or not.

Schary also said, however, that the survey shows that even though anti-Jewish discrimination has diminished, old lies against Jews "are deeply rooted in the minds of too many Americans."

Another ADL leader, Samuel Delsimer, brought out several other points revealed by the survey:

- 10 per cent of those questioned believe that Jews have too much power in the United States;
- 26 per cent believe that Jews are too powerful in business;
- 27 per cent of those who believe that Jews are too powerful think that steps must be taken to remove this power. In the deep South this figure rises to a majority of those questioned;
- 42 per cent of those questioned believe that Jews, more than others, are ready to adopt unsavory methods to attain their ends. Another 12 per cent stated that they are not sure;
- 35 per cent said that Jews are so smart and deceitful that other people don't have a chance against them (11 per cent had no definite opinion on this question).

One of the questions was: "If a Congressional candidate said he was against Jews, would you vote for or against him?" Some 57 per cent replied that they would vote against him; 5 per cent that they would vote for him, and 38 per cent that it would make no difference to them or that they were not sure how they would vote. In some southern states, a majority said they would vote for the candidate, or that his anti-Semitism would not bother them.

On the statement: "Jews should stop complaining about what happened to them in Nazi Germany," 43 per cent agreed and 17 per cent said they didn't know. The other 40 per cent did not agree.

The two investigations agree that there is a great measure of prejudice against Jews among large sections of Americans and this prejudice is greater in certain parts of the country. At the same time, both reports underscore the fact that in recent years discrimination

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Americans prejudice against Jews has diminished.

Neither report, however, says anything about the reasons for the decline of prejudice. We believe that one of the reasons is the fact that in World War II thousands of Jewish young men fought side by side with thousands of non-Jews on the battlefields of Europe and Asia, lived together with them, and this helped to rid many non-Jews of some of their prejudices. The war helped, too, to bring many Jews into certain industries where they were previously not present, or present only in small numbers, such as auto, transportation, communication, machine building, etc. After the war, Jews remained in those industries. This also led to the diminution of prejudice among some of the non-Jews with whom they worked. The anti-discrimination laws, of course, did not come of themselves, but were due to the struggles of Negro, Jewish and other groups and organizations.

Anti-Semitic Acts on the Rise

We do not have as yet a full analysis of the University of California report. But in what has been made public so far, there is no mention of anti-Semitic acts. Yet the fact is obvious that anti-Semitism in the U.S. has become *more* active and *more* aggressive than it was in the 1930s and 1940s. This impression is gained merely from reading the newspapers, from observing what goes on around us, and from various partial and incomplete studies.

In February 1966, Rabbi Israel Movsovitch appealed to Attorney General Katzenbach to investigate whether a "central organization" of anti-Semites exists in the U.S. which is responsible for the great number of outbreaks of fires and vandalization of synagogues in various parts of the country. Rabbi Movsovitch is past president of the New York Board of Rabbis and present Chairman of the International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport.

That the alarm raised by Rabbi Movsovitch and also by the American Jewish Committee in a recent report is well founded can be seen from a number of recent news accounts.

On October 7, 1965, vandals broke into the Congregation Bikur Cholim of Bridgeport, Connecticut. They carved a swastika into the altar and slashed five *sefer Torahs* (Torah scrolls). Three weeks later someone hurled two home-made bombs into the same synagogue.

In Trumbull, a town near Bridgeport, someone painted the word JEW on two buildings.

Rabbi Alexander Schuch of Congregation Bikur Cholim said, after the incidents: "I thought that this kind of behavior existed only

ing the war."

During the High Holy Days in October 1965, so many attacks took place against Jews on the East Side of New York that those who attended synagogue in the evenings had to ask for police protection. Jewish youngsters, children and old men were attacked with stones and bottles accompanied by anti-Semitic epithets.

At the end of October, anti-Semites set fire to a synagogue in Brooklyn and burned up 18 Torah scrolls. In the early part of November, anti-Semites painted swastikas on the Shaarei Tfila Synagogue in Queens and smashed the entrance-steps. Rabbi Shmuel Sheffler said that this was the third such incident in two months.

At about the same time, on November 3, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, anti-Semites broke into Rodphei Sholem Synagogue, painted swastikas on the walls and tried to set the place on fire. The Torah scrolls were scattered over the floor. A few weeks previously Temple Beth El in Springfield, Massachusetts, had been burned to the ground.

On November 6, an editorial in the Holyoke Transcript-Telegram condemned the anti-Semitic attack on the synagogue. That same night, hoodlums broke into the home of William Dwight, editor of the paper (Mr. and Mrs. Dwight were out of the city) and smeared big swastikas on the walls. Police Lieutenant Adrian Monte, who is responsible for the investigation of anti-Semitic acts, said that there was no evidence that anti-Semitism was involved.

In early January 1966, young hoodlums set fire to a Jewish center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, causing heavy damage.

On January 4, 1966, a Jewish father told a meeting of parents of Bronx High School of Science that a Nazi gang was active in the school, terrorizing Jewish children. He reported that in October they had attacked his 14-year-old son who was wearing an armband reading "Peace Is The Only Defense." The young Nazis beat the boy and spit on him. Another 14-year-old boy, at the same meeting, confirmed the existence of this gang in the school.

Early in January this year Nazis set up three huge swastikas near the home of Simon Barfam in Oakland, California. Barfam, a Jew, came to the U.S. in 1945 after having spent nine years in Nazi concentration camps.

At the end of January came the scandal with the "Rat Finks" in New Jersey. This is an organization of young middle-class, wealthy "activists" in the Young Republican organization of New Jersey. They made their appearance after the 1964 Republican Convention in San

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Last May this group conducted a songfest at the state convention of the Young Republicans in Wildwood. The songs were nastily anti-Semitic and anti-Negro. They handed out song sheets to the delegates, many of whom sang along with them. A month later, the same kind of racist songfest was conducted at the national convention of the Young Republicans in Miami.

At the end of January, racists burned crosses near a Catholic church in Baltimore. The same day, anti-Semitic slogans were scrawled on a Jewish center in the same city. Rabbi Jacob Max said this was not the first time such things had happened at the center.

At about the same time, in Dallas, Texas, George Lincoln Rockwell, "fuehrer" of the American Nazi Party, picketed the offices of the ADL, carrying anti-Semitic placards with slogans such as: "Mixing of the races is carried on and financed by Jews. Ninety per cent of the condemned Communist traitors and spies are Jews."

All the above-mentioned incidents, and many more, have been reported in the press during the past few months. Attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions are becoming more frequent and more widespread.

In February 1966, at a basketball game between Georgetown U. and NYU, a student in a Nazi uniform led the cheers. Many students at NYU were horrified. The Georgetown students apologized. They said that although the incident began innocently enough, they realized it had possible insulting implications. Accepting the apology, the NYU students said they understood the incident was not premeditated nor malicious and was not done with anti-Semitic intent.

We have our doubts about the "innocent" intent of this incident. But innocent or otherwise, it is characteristic of the atmosphere in our country today that the cheer leader of a large university like Georgetown would even think of putting on a Nazi uniform.

This is not the only case where men have put on Nazi uniforms and paraded through the streets of America. Usually the American would-be storm troopers do not content themselves with the uniforms. They threaten to kill Jews and they spread hatred against Negroes. Such incidents have happened in New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Arizona, California, Ohio and other states. Often the storm-troopers are high school boys. Superficially, these incidents seem isolated and unrelated. But they are all very much alike. If the participants are not organizationally connected, they are certainly all "inspired" by the widespread Nazi and racist propaganda now being disseminated by radio, telephone, books, pamphlets and leaflets.

Before me is one of the oldest anti-Semitic publications in the U.S. —*The Cross and the Flag*. This monthly periodical, founded by Gerald L. K. Smith, is the organ of the Christian Nationalist Crusade. It is in its 25th year. Here are a few gems from the October 1965 issue: "A Jew started Communism, it is organized by Jews, it is financed by Jews. The most important Jewish journals have boasted that the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia was the work of Jewish money, Jewish brains and Jewish organizations. . . . The Jews and the professional spreaders of brotherhood in the U.S. are always talking about hate. Their definition of hate is personified by anybody who wants to maintain the tradition of a Christian America and is against the mixing of races. No Christian I know wants to harm a Jew or a Negro; but must they condemn us for carrying on a campaign for racial purity?"

Here is a mimeographed publication, a caricature of the *Diary of Ann Frank*. It is called *The Diary of Ann Fink* and it contains a nasty picture of the martyred girl. But the picture of the death camps are real, and under each picture is a "humorous" description. The last page has this "dedication": "This booklet is disrespectfully dedicated to those reds, pinks, punks, sobsisters, leftwingers, moderates, Jews, nigger-loving sellout artists and all others of their ilk who would undermine and destroy our great Republic." On the same page is the number of a Post Office box in Birmingham, Alabama where copies may be obtained.

Another mimeographed brochure issued by the National Renaissance Party is full of racist propaganda against Negroes and Jews. One page contains the following inscription in large type: "Communism and race-mixing is Jewish."

It is characteristic of all the ultra-Right and neo-Nazi organizations that they hate both Negroes and Jews and at the same time are dead-set not only against Communism but against anything progressive in the broadest sense of the word. And although the John Birch Society denies it is anti-Semitic, the ADL nevertheless has documented beyond doubt that the Society is both thoroughly anti-Semitic and anti-Negro. (See Arnold Forster and Benjamin K. Epstein, *Danger on the Right*, Random House, New York, 1964.)

A good example of this is the magazine *Counterattack*, founded in 1947 to "fight Communism." The magazine has been widely used by various firms to put people on the blacklist. "American Business Consultants, Inc." acquired the copyright of *Counterattack* at its in-

ception. This is the same organization which in 1950 published the infamous *Red Channels*, the book which provided a long list of persons accused of being Communists or fellow-travelers. Most of the names were of film, TV or stage artists, hundreds of whom lost their jobs.

After the murder of President Kennedy, *Counterattack* adopted the "line" that Communists had committed the crime. It claimed "a Jack Rubinstein was active from 1938 to 1940 in the Young Communist League and the Young Student League of Chicago." In this case, *Counterattack* is pulling several dirty tricks at one and the same time. They found a Jack Rubinstein who had been a Communist in Chicago. Jack Ruby, who shot Lee Oswald, is also originally from Chicago and his name was Rubinstein. Here you have the complete frameup made to order—A Communist Jew mixed up in the murder of the President.

The Ultra-Right Is Growing

The ultra-Right is growing in the number of organizations springing up in all corners of the land. It is growing in the number of members and in its "respectability." It is no longer a matter only of the American Nazi Party—now we have the National Renaissance Party, the Christian Anti-Communist Crusade, the Christian Crusade, the Minutemen, American Patriots, Inc. But most important is the John Birch Society.

It has long been known that policemen in many states are members of the Society. But it was a shock for many New Yorkers when they learned that the Police Department in their city too has a large number of Birch Society members. The leader of the Society himself boasted that the number was 500. It is not hard to imagine how such policemen carry out their duties in Harlem and Bedford-Stuyvesant, and in the Jewish neighborhoods of the Bronx, Manhattan and Brooklyn. At the recent hearing in New York concerning the police and the Birch Society, open fascist demonstrations took place. Two Brooklyn assemblymen, who began an investigation of the Birch Society, received a stream of anti-Semitic letters and other hate literature, as well as many threatening phone calls.

The National Renaissance Party too has grown stronger in New York. The Board of Education in February decided that this neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic group may use public school buildings for its meetings. On March 18 the group held an open meeting in a junior high school in Yorkville, replete with uniforms and hate slogans.

The ultras own not only their own radio stations, newspapers, maga-

have also penetrated the text books used in our public schools. They are "lecturing" at universities. They are getting more and more time on leading radio networks. They operate with tremendous funds, which they receive from tax-free foundations. They are liberally supported by millionaires and large business firms. (See Forster and Epstein, *Danger on the Right*.) In the 1964 elections the ultras published many books in hundreds of thousands of copies. Leaflets were spread in the millions—containing slogans such as these: "If you want a Negro living next door, all you have to do is vote the Democratic ticket. It is better to be extremely right than extremely wrong." The leaflets listed names and addresses of various ultra-Right publications such as *Thunderbolt* in Birmingham, *Common Sense* in Union, New Jersey and *The Cross and the Flag* in Los Angeles.

Barry Goldwater, standard-bearer of the ultra-Right and militant advocate of war in the Far East, was soundly trounced in the 1964 popular vote, but the ultras made important gains nevertheless. They captured one of the nation's two big parties. They used the elections for bringing many new members into their organizations. They broadened their influence and their activity. They distributed 30 million pieces of propaganda literature.

In addition to the neo-Nazi parties and the ultra-Right movement, there are a large number of war criminals in our country who during World War II helped the Nazis "rid Europe of Communists and Jews." They come from Lithuania, Latvia, the Ukraine, Russia, Yugoslavia, Estonia and other countries, and they are here by the hundreds. Some of them had been sentenced to death for their crimes in the countries where they committed them. The mass murders which they committed are well-documented. The Soviet government has in many cases requested our government to deliver these criminals so that they could be tried or so that the verdicts already decreed could be carried out. A similar request was made by the Yugoslav government in the case of one Andreo Artucovic, who now lives in Long Beach, California. But our government refuses to turn them over, although international agreements providing for this were made at Potsdam and Yalta.

The above criminals have not been idle here either. They are active in the organizations of the so-called "captive nations," they have their own press and conduct war-inciting activities through demonstrations, picket lines, etc. These organizations are aided by government people in Washington and in the state governments. This is done by addressing their meetings, by supporting their parades, and

by various other methods. Many of these war criminals came here after the war with the help of important people.

One such "immigrant" is Nicholas Malaska. Malaska was an armaments magnate in Roumania and a leader of the Iron Guard, the fascist organization which organized a slaughter of Jews in Bucharest in 1941. Malaska came to the U.S. with the help of the then Attorney General William P. Rodgers and Vice President Nixon. Today he is a prominent business man in New York. There are others, of varying importance, who entered the U.S., often illegally and by various machinations. Today Washington is their protector.

Here are a couple of illustrations which point, on one hand, to the connection of war criminals with certain emigre organizations and with the organization of the so-called "captive nations," and to the connection of the government with the "captive nations."

In March, 1934, there took place a trial in Soviet Lithuania against seven war criminals, among them the priest, Lionginas Jankauskas. This clergyman was accused of being the leader of a gang which murdered twelve hundred people in the town of Skuodas during the Nazi occupation. The criminals were sentenced to various terms of prison at hard labor, Jankauskas to fifteen years.

Six of the murderers are now paying for their crimes in Soviet prisons. The seventh, Jankauskas, is free. He resides on Grand Street in Brooklyn. He is now an American citizen and is known as Jankus. He is the business manager of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. One can well imagine what kind of relief he is handing out and who are the recipients of this relief.

On April 21, the *New York Times* carried a cloak-and-dagger story about a certain agent of the CIA, one Jure Raus. He is thirty-nine years old and works in Washington as an "engineer" for the Bureau of Public Roads. However, this engineering business is only a front. His real occupation is his work for the CIA. His task is "to spy in Soviet Estonia and amongst Estonian immigrants in foreign countries and in the United States." So states an affidavit of the CIA.

Raus is also the past National Commander of the Estonian Legion of Liberation. These are the same legionnaires who, during the Second World War, helped Hitler "liberate" Soviet Estonia where they left mass graves of murdered men, women and children. These are the same legionnaires who annihilated practically the whole of the Jewish population of Estonia.

Richard Helm, then Deputy Director of the CIA, issued a sworn statement that the agency has "fine, intelligent sources which exist and are developed" through immigrant groups.

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POLITICAL AFFAIRS
The *New York Times* states: "According to unofficial estimates there are about a hundred thousand members in several hundred active immigrant associations in America which are organized by exiles from countries which are now under Communist rule. Most of them are strongly nationalistic and anti-Communist and maintain informal connections with their countrymen who are still behind the Iron Curtain."

Here is another example which points to the close collaboration between the American government and the "Assembly of Captive European Nations." In the magazine *ACEN News* of March-April there is the following item:

A five-man delegation from ACEN conferred on December 14 with top U.S. State Department officials about the current situation in East-Central Europe.

During the three-hour meeting the ACEN delegation, led by Chairman Vaclovas Sidzikauskas of Lithuania, spoke with U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary; Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary; and Raymond E. Lisle, Director, Office of Eastern European Affairs.

The other representatives of ACEN at the conference were Vice Chairman Stefan Korbonski of Poland, George M. Dimitrov of Bulgaria, Jozef Lettrich of Czechoslovakia, and Ferenc Nagy of Hungary. . . .

The meeting . . . brought into sharp focus the fact that the U.S. Government and ACEN share the same view regarding the long-range goal for the people of East-Central Europe—freedom and independence through self-determination.

The "captive nations" organizations are often connected with similar organizations in other countries in Europe and Latin America. Directly and indirectly they are connected with various sections of the Nazi "international." It is no accident that anti-Semitism has recently been intensified in West Germany, Austria and other countries in Western Europe; it is being supported by important forces in the U.S.

The important Jewish community organizations and their leaders are strangely silent about all this. A couple of months ago, to be sure, the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Labor Committee issued statements about the fact that war criminals and murderers of hundreds of thousands of Jewish people are free in this country. They said that they had discussed the question with representatives of the Department of Justice in Washington, and that these officials had told them that in order to deport such criminals back to the countries where they had committed those crimes, they

must have evidence. These leaders of the Jewish organizations state, on their part, that all these complaints about war criminals come, after all, from behind the Iron Curtain. Evidently, this does not constitute valid evidence for either the Department of Justice or the leadership of the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Labor Committee.

The presidential elections of 1964 and the participation of a large number of Jewish people in the civil rights movement point to the fact that there is a definite anxiety among great masses of Jewish people in the United States over the rapid growth of the ultra-Right and the neo-Nazis in our country. This is why some of the Jewish organizations have begun to study the problem of anti-Semitism. However, they don't do much more about it.

They do not show even a tenth part of the speed and initiative which is shown around the question of so-called "Soviet anti-Semitism." There are no demonstrations in the streets of New York or other great cities against anti-Semitism here. There are no marches on Washington. There are no conferences and hearings about the war criminals and against anti-Semitic attacks on Jewish institutions and individuals in our country. There is no call for unity on this question among the great Jewish organizations. There is no lobbying in Washington for Congress to adopt a law against anti-Semitism, for prohibiting the spread of literature to deport the Negro people and to gas Jewish people in this country. Congress still has not ratified the Genocide Resolution adopted by the United Nations as most other countries have. The only group in the Jewish community which is carrying on a constant struggle against the danger of anti-Semitism in the United States is its progressive segment.

Conclusions

Anti-Semitism is not a mere question of prejudice. It is an essential part of the racist arsenal of the ultra-Right and a weapon of reaction generally. It is being used for political purposes by the most reactionary section of American monopoly capital, by the industrial-military combine. It is being used by the American power structure as a means of undermining the civil rights and peace movements.

The aggressive policies being pursued by U.S. imperialism today bring it into closer alliance with racist and fascist elements everywhere. They strengthen the hand of the Birchites, the Klan and other such forces in this country, and create an increased danger of the flareup of anti-Semitism into violent forms. For although anti-

Semitism is a part of the general arsenal of racism, it serves as a special weapon against everything progressive and humanitarian.

The neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic movement is also being used by American imperialism in relation to West Germany. It has helped to create the present Bonn regime which it looks on as its chief ally in Western Europe, a regime rotten with former Nazis and war criminals. It has helped to remilitarize West Germany and to build it up once more as a threat to world peace, and now threatens to equip it with nuclear weapons. This policy expresses itself also in the help given to war criminals who live in our own country, and in the assistance given to those organizations in other countries which are led by men who collaborated with Hitler.

In our opinion, therefore, the Marxist movement in our country must take the fight against anti-Semitism far more seriously than it now does. It is true, of course, that the fight against racism generally, and for the rights of the Negro people, helps the fight against anti-Semitism. But in the absence of a specific struggle against it, anti-Semitism spreads. Thus it has penetrated into certain sections of the Negro people, too. Also, despite the various anti-discrimination laws, Jews are still being discriminated against in various fields of life.

Hence the ultra-Right movement in general and the plague of anti-Semitism in particular must receive special attention in the Communist and progressive movements in the United States. It is time to sound the alarm, to arouse the entire American people to this danger.

Three years ago a book appeared in France—*Fascists and Nazis of the Present Time* by Dennis Eisenberg. It said: "Anti-Communism, anti-Semitism, Negro hatred, and a deification of Hitler's Nazism, form the common base of all the propaganda of the ultra-Right in the U.S.A. The day may come when one of the ultra-Right organizations will recruit a sharpshooter who will be assigned to kill the most 'dangerous' Communist agent in the West—John F. Kennedy."

These words were written two months before President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

That which happened in Italy and Germany can also happen in America. If it does, it will wear a special American mask. But the danger is here.